

Suggested Remarks
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Exploring Partnerships for Clean Transport
A Multi-Sector Forum & Workshop
Klima Conference Center, Manila Observatory,
Ateneo de Manila Campus
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Honored guests, participants, ladies and gentlemen, magandang umaga sa inyong lahat!

People have been interested in clean and alternative sources of energy, long before the emergence of climate change.

But current interest in issues of air quality and climate change is at an all-time high, and demand is just as strong for the latest information on technologies and

practices that could help clean the air and restore the balance of our natural climate.

The 1994 Philippine Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory revealed that of the 50,038 kilotons (kt) of CO₂ released by the energy sector, 30% had actually come from transport.

The latest National Air Quality Report of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), meanwhile, also indicates that the very same transport sector contributes about 1/5 of the particulate matter that is spewed into the atmosphere nationwide.

And who has not felt the crunch brought about by the continuing spike in petroleum prices?

Damage to human health, environment, and the economy are but some of the challenges we all face, due to our heavy dependence on fossil fuel imports and our consumption of this nearly depleted, unsustainable energy resource.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is well aware of these challenges. Our Energy and Environment Program has, in fact, been actively supporting and sustaining the efforts of local institutions to achieve the goals of

efficient energy utilization and energy independence.

Let me mention some of these efforts:

- First is Energy & Clean Air Program or ECAP, a Four-Year Program of USAID that seeks to strengthen energy sector governance through institutional capacity building, improve policy implementation, and increase public support and understanding through communication and information outreach.

ECAP provides organizational development assistance to key energy institutions, such as the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), the Department of Energy (DOE), and the National Power Corporation (NPC) and is present in four project sites - Metro

Manila, Davao, Cebu and Baguio - to provide assistance in consumer education and investment promotion.

Through its clean air component, ECAP provides the transport sector with venues to dialogue with transport authorities and best practices in inspection and maintenance. ECAP also serves as a key partner in improving and implementing the anti-smoke belching program of the Philippine government.

- The second is Sustainable Energy Development Program or SEDP, a joint program of USAID and the U.S. Department of Energy. One component of SEDP is the Clean Cities Program which aims to encourage

transport groups to use alternative energy sources, and duplicate successful approaches under the Clean Cities Program in the pilot cities Baguio, Davao, Cebu and Marikina.

The SEDP also supports the Philippine Department of Energy, in partnership with the private sector to increase awareness of sources and harmful effects of air pollution, and to promote alternative fuels for transport, such as the compressed natural gas, bio-diesel, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), and possibly fuel cells and hydrogen.

- The third is our partnership with the Infinite Progression Foundation, Inc.

(IPFI). USAID supports their activities which have proven that effective use of preventive maintenance will reduce vehicle emissions, improve fuel consumption, prevent breakdowns, and increase income.

- The fourth is Integrated Environmental Strategies, a research collaboration of the Manila Observatory, the USAID, the US-Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA), and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). Their research studies have quantified and assessed the public health benefits of different mitigation measures with special focus on the transport sector. The project used health and economic impacts as parameters in

evaluating the benefits from mitigation measures, such as motor vehicle inspection system, transport demand management, and use of compressed natural gas, coco-methyl ester, diesel particulate traps, and bikeways.

- And last but not the least is Klima Climate Change Center's DEVCAP our nickname for Developing National, Local, and Regional Capacities for Sustaining Initiatives for Climate Change in the Philippines and East Asia Project. The DevCap project of the Klima has been very active in supporting and improving public understanding of clean transport issues and initiatives. For example, one of Klima's public awareness programs, The Low Carbon Diet for a Healthy

Climate Campaign, promotes anti-idling habits and driver education in the transport sector.

Another example is The Clean Transport Hub, a web-based information service established by klima to serve as a database facility for all clean transport initiatives in the country. Regarded as one of the first (if not, actually the first) of its kind here in the Philippines, the Clean Transport Hub supports clean transport initiatives by providing key sectors and the public with access to knowledge and resources on clean transport technologies and practices.

Klima also supports policy development as shown by its very active support for the

Renewable Energy Bill and research studies on clean alternative fuels for the transport sector.

Today's gathering--organized by Klima Climate Change Center and the Manila Observatory--is another testament of their commitment to help promote clean transport.

While initiatives to shift to clean and alternative sources of energy, particularly in the land transport sector, have been implemented in different areas of the country, efforts have so far remained isolated and fragmented.

By bringing together stakeholders from the government, academe, civil society, and

business, we hope to set clearer directions in land transport to address issues of sustainability, air quality, and of course, climate change. The forum and workshop will cover a number of themes such as hybrid vehicles, alternative fuels, inspection & maintenance, preventive maintenance, traffic management, and mass transit/public transport.

Today, we shall aim to answer, together, such questions as:

- ✓ Who are the clean transport players in the Philippines?
- ✓ What are the new and clean transport resources in the country (technologies/practices)?

- ✓ Where are these available?
- ✓ What are the opportunities and barriers to the development and use of such technologies and practices? Consider
 - partnership opportunities
 - economic/financial
 - technical
 - political and
 - social/cultural aspects.

Answers to these questions and others shall hopefully provide all of us, so-called “insiders” in the land transport sector, a working picture of lessons learned, crucial gaps to fill, and next steps to take in the development and promotion of clean transport initiatives.

Ours is, indeed, a timely gathering as there is a clear need for industry, experts, and government at all levels to work closely together to tackle and take action on these important issues.

I am truly pleased to see everyone here today and I sincerely hope for the success of this event. Together, let's do our "bestest best" in the shared goal of charting clean, alternative routes to a better environment and a sustainable future.

Thank you very much and a pleasant day to all.

